

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, October 19, 2007

Attendance:

Maurianne Adams, John Cunningham, Ginger Etinde, Judy Goodenough, Kevin Klement, Randall Knoper, Mark Leckie, Ernest May

Minutes:

The minutes of September 21, 2007 were passed by the Council.

Report of the Assessment Subcommittee:

Mark Leckie reported on the recommendations of the assessment subcommittee. For one thing, syllabi should include learning goals and outcomes. For another, questions should be added to the SRTI evaluation forms that will help determine whether learning outcomes have been met. He also suggested that additional questions, such as asking students' opinions of whether learning goals have been met, might be included in an end-of-the-semester survey. Maurianne Adams suggested that there be a workshop on critical thinking which clarifies and differentiates between 'knowledge of the subject' compared to 'critical thinking'. Kevin Klement suggested that maybe SRTI forms could be created for *faculty* to fill out, with questions about whether their Gen Ed goals have been met. Mark also suggested that there be additional questions on the course proposal, Q-Review and SRTI forms for each individual General Education designation.

Report of the Workshops Subcommittee:

Randall gave a review of the workshop subcommittee. The subcommittee proposes three workshops, the first one in December on assessment in General Education, to be coordinated with the Office of Planning and Assessment. The second one would be on critical thinking, to be held in spring semester, followed, also in spring semester, with a workshop on teaching writing, to be coordinated with the Writing Program and its junior-year-writing group. John Cunningham mentioned that the NEASC Accreditation is approaching, in which retention and first year experience could be made a topic of discussion; however, he suggested that regardless of which topic is discussed, it would be imperative to choose themes that are important to the campus. John mentioned that the Council could ask the Chancellor for funding now, and if granted, distribute the funds appropriately for the workshops at a later time.

Maurianne urged that the Council consider how to retain the information on the course review forms, as these have been discarded after course review, despite their valuable and detailed information. Randall suggested that electronic course evaluation forms would be ideal, as this would allow for a running list to be kept.

Course Approvals:

Biology 197H: Introduction to Topics in Neuroscience	(BS)	PASSED
History 393K: Cross-Disciplinary Contemporary Issues: War & Patriotism in African American Literature and History	(IU)	PASSED

Biology 190B and CEE 211 were not passed due to incomplete information. Randall will contact the instructors of these courses.

Next Meeting: Friday November 16, 2007 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor's Board Room, 370 Whitmore.